

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please revise the paragraph beginning on line 22 of page 4 as follows:

In the practice of the invention, it is preferred that the steam used is one which has a temperature within a range of 120 to 160°C and a [[vapor]] pressure within a range of 0.27 to 0.62 MPa.

Please revise the paragraph beginning on line 14 of page 5 as follows:

According to the method of the invention, a glass matrix is initially provided. The term "glass matrix" used herein is intended to mean cylindrical glass bodies having different diameters ranging, for example, from 40 to 250 mm and include not only so-called preforms ~~performs~~ or rods, but also ingots used for optical fiber service. The glass matrix used for this purpose is generally one which is made of silica or quartz glass.

Please revise the paragraph beginning on line 17 of page 6 as follows:

Next, the glass matrix is applied with steam on the surface thereof in a manner as will be hereinafter described with reference to the accompanying drawings. Steam used for this purpose should preferably have a temperature of 120 to 160°C and a [[vapor]] pressure of 0.27 to 0.62 MPa. A lower temperature is not favorable in view of the fact that removability or detergency of dirt or like is not satisfactory. A higher temperature may be usable but is poor in economy. Likewise, a lower [[vapor]] pressure is not convenient for the reason that satisfactory cleaning effects could not be

expected. On the other hand, a higher [[vapor]] pressure may be used, but no further cleaning effect will [[not]] be attained.